

Regional Conservation Partnership Program

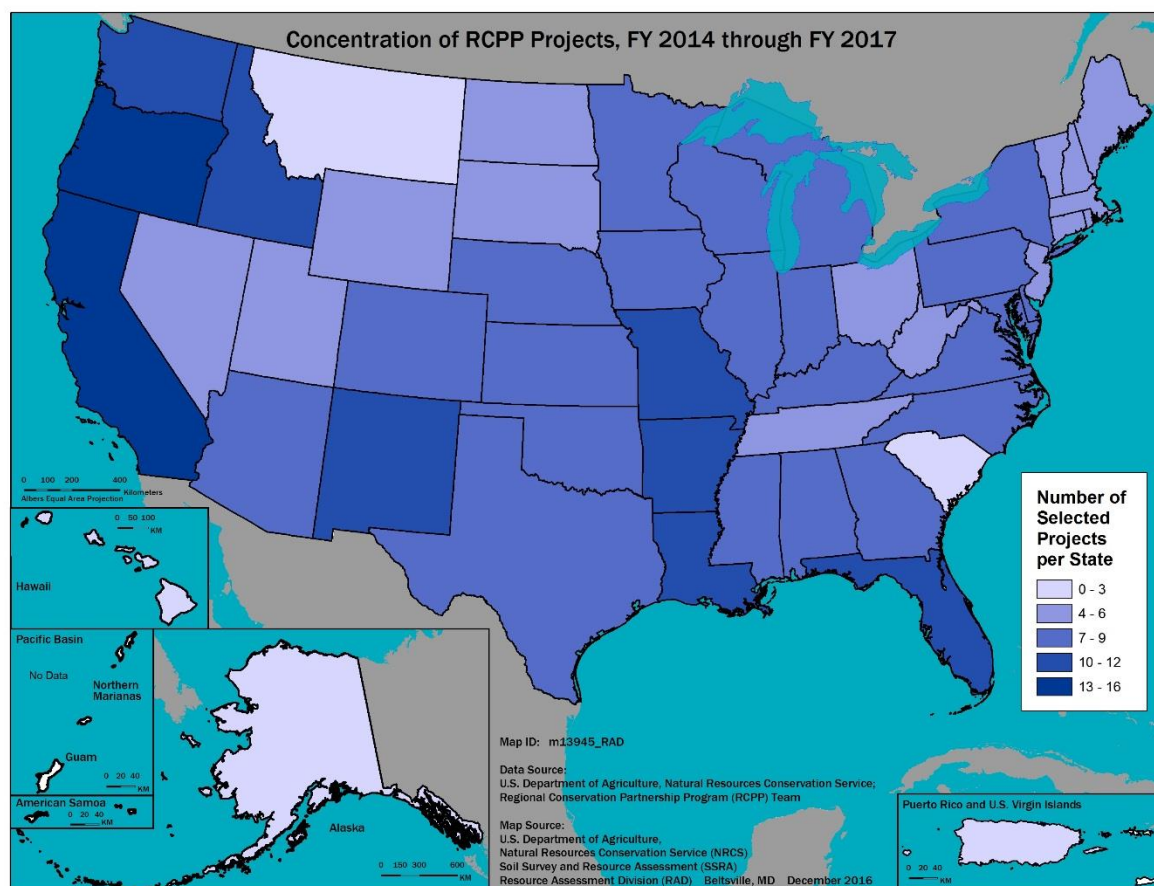
Investing in Pennsylvania



Regional Conservation Partnership Program

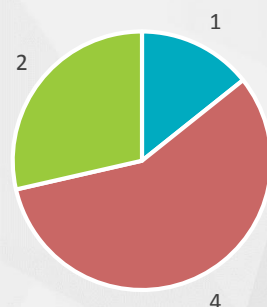
Created by the 2014 Farm Bill, the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) is a partner-driven, locally-led approach to conservation. It offers new opportunities for USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to harness innovation, welcome new partners to the conservation mission, and demonstrates the value and efficacy of voluntary, private lands conservation.

In 2017, NRCS is investing up to \$225 million in 88 projects that impact every state in the nation, including one in Pennsylvania. Since 2014, NRCS has invested more than \$825 million in 286 high-impact projects, bringing together more than 2,000 conservation partners who have invested an additional \$1.4 billion. By 2018, NRCS and partners will have invested at least \$2.4 billion. These projects are leading to cleaner and more abundant water, better soil and air quality, enhance wildlife habitat, more resilient and productive agricultural lands and stronger rural economies.



Pennsylvania Projects to Date

Projects by Resource Concern



7

Projects

\$34.4 million

NRCS Investment

111

Partners

Existing RCPP Projects

Year	Title	Funding Pool	Lead Partner	Number of Partners	NRCS Investment
2016	Genesee River Sediment and Phosphorus Reduction	CCA	New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee	4	\$3 million
2014/2015	Comprehensive Watershed Conservation in Dairy and Livestock Landscapes of the Chesapeake Bay	CCA	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	20	\$7 million
2014/2015	Mason-Dixon Working Lands Partnership	CCA	Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay	16	\$1.5 million
2014/2015	Productive Farms and Clean Streams for Berks and Chester Counties	State	Stroud Water Research Center	13	\$1.5 million
2014/2015	Cerulean Warbler Appalachian Forestland Enhancement	National	Appalachian Mountains Joint Venture	23	\$8 million
2014/2015	Delaware River Watershed Working Lands Conservation and Protection Partnership	National	American Farmland Trust	27	\$13 million

2017 RCPP Projects

Soil Health: Improving Land, Water and Profitability

Proposed NRCS Investment: \$396,800 (State)

Lead Partner: Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Number of Initial Partners: 8

Participating States: Pennsylvania (Lead State)

Through the Improving Land, Water and Profitability project, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and public-private partners will build farmer management capacity to implement strategic farm conservation practices that promote soil health (i.e. maximize in soil organic matter, soil organisms, and nutrients) and improving “whole-farm” conservation performance. While addressing other resource concerns of the participating farms, the partners will focus on implementing high-level, innovative conservation stewardship practices on 1,000 acres annually for three years, with emphasis on watersheds in Clinton and Centre Counties in Central Pennsylvania. Project objectives include better soil health management practices to improve farm economic viability through reduced input costs and productivity gains associated with advanced management of soil as a living ecosystem, while also reducing soil erosion and nutrient loss. Partners will encourage farmers to consider implementing soil management practices through outreach and educational activities such as on-farm demonstrations, field days, educational materials, and on-farm research/monitoring outcomes. Additionally, in an effort to provide individualized solutions and reduce barriers to implementation, partners will construct specific mentor teams to provide practical advice for farmers throughout the planning and operational phases of implementing conservation practices.

